(Rs. in Lakhs)

Goods	1994-95		1995-96	
	Value of goods seized	Value of goods confiscated	Value of goods seized	Value of goods confiscated
Cattle	255.28	191.85	163.92	122.96
Cloth	33.93	28.84	33.13	28.16
Electronic Goods	12.90	12.90	9.19	9.19
Others	658.55	40.94	339.71	230.52

Bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh is already allowed to be carried out through ninety Land Customs Stations along Indo-Bangladesh Border, out of which six Land Customs Stations are located in Murshidabad district in the State of West Bengal.

Ensuring transparency in the guidelines for Indo-Russian joint ventures

*459. DR. D VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are working on fresh guidelines for ensuring transparency in the procedure for approval of joint ventures between Indian and Russian companies;

(b) if so, whether Commerce Ministry had urged to the Finance Ministry of the need for ensuring transparency in the guidelines for Indo-Russian joint ventures;

(c) if so, whether there has been a marked absence of a long term investment by the Indian companies in Russia or vice-versa in terms of setting up joint ventures;

(d) if so, whether any guidelines have been issued; and

(e) if so, what steps have been suggested in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir, government's existing policies and regulations on both outward investment and incoming foreign investment are applicable to all countries, including Russia.

(c) to (e) No, Sir, 28 Indo-Russian joint ventures had already been registered in Russia until November, 1995 and a further 14 Indian wholly owned subsidiaries to be set up in Russia have since been approved by the Government Between July, 1991 and May, 1996, there has been direct Russian investment in 10 Indian companies.

Government have concluded an Agreement on Mutual Protection of Investments with the Government of Russia, which is expected to further encourage investment flows between the two countries.

Proposal for opening Jabalpur airport

*460. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to open Jabalpur airport for use and to build airports/strips at Sanchi, Bilaspur, Jagdalpur etc. in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Jabalpur airport is an operational airport, which can handle 50 seater aircraft. Airports Authority of India has plans to extend the runway to 6500 ft. for operation of B -737/Airbus-320 type aircraft at a cost of Rs. 18 crores. There are no plans for construction of airports at the other places in question. Sanchi is located very close to Bhopal. Jagdalpur has no traffic potential. Bilaspur has an airport, but it is not operational at present since no airline has shown interest in operating flights to this airport due to less traffic.